

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03

OMB-01 ITC-01 L-03 /059 W

-----122151 290427Z /15

R 282036Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1125

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: EC ACTION ON TEXTILE QUESTIONS

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 8831; (B) BRUSSELS 8154; (C) GENEVA

6230

1. CONVERSATIONS WITH COMMISSION OFFICIALS INDICATE THEIR BELIEF THAT FRENCH STATEMENT IN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (REF A) WILL NOT BE FOLLOWED BY FURTHER FRENCH EFFORTS AT THIS TIME TO UNDO US-COMMISSION AGREEMENT ON OPENING PROTOCOL FOR EXTENSION OF MFA IN GENEVA (REFTEL C). INSTEAD FRENCH ARE EXPECTED TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO GO ALONG WITH THE RENEWAL BASED ON COMMISSION PERFORMANCE IN NEGOTIATING MORE THAN 20 BILATERAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN NOW AND MID-NOVEMBER.

2. COMMISSION IS BEGINNING TO REV UP FOR BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, EVEN TO EXTENT OF KEEPING NUMBER OF TEXTILE OFFICIALS WORKING DURING NORMALLY SACROSANCT
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HOLIDAY PERIOD. COMMISSION THINKING IS TO HAVE READY BY EARLY SEPTEMBER A MANDATE FOR BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WOULD BE APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS SHORTLY THEREAFTER AND PRESENTED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL IN LATE SEPTEMBER. UNTIL A MANDATE IS APPROVED, COMMISSION WOULD NOT BE EMPOWERED TO CONDUCT BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. COMMISSION MANDATE WILL APPARENTLY AIM

AT PRESENTING A MODEL TEXTILE AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD SERVE MORE OR LESS UNCHANGED FOR EACH BILATERAL. THIS MANDATE WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY 20-ODD ANNEXES EACH OF WHICH WOULD SPELL OUT IN QUANTITATIVE TERMS EC OBJECTIVES FROM EACH EXPORTING COUNTRY.

3. AT PRESENT TIME, COMMISSION BELIEVES IT CAN GET MANDATE ITSELF APPROVED AT SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING AND THAT ANNEXES CAN BE HELD OFF FOR A TIME. COMMISSION WOULD SEEK TO NEGOTIATE ITS 20 PLUS BILATERALS IN SIX-WEEK PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1 TO NOVEMBER 15, USING ANNEXES, WHETHER APPROVED OR NOT AS NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVES. MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK, COMMISSION OFFICIALS CONCEDE, WILL BE LACK OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL. INITIAL THINKING IS THAT TRAN VAN THINH WILL CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS WITH MAJOR EXPORTING COUNTRIES AND THAT LOWER RANKING OFFICIALS IN DG-I, PERHAPS AIDED BY PEOPLE FROM DG-III, WILL DO OTHERS.

4. FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL ALSO LEFT HANGING, BUT NEAR RESOLUTION, QUESTION OF QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORTS FROM A NUMBER OF LDCS, INCLUDING NON-MFA PARTICIPANTS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MINISTERS SUGGESTED THAT QUOTAS IN A NUMBER OF CASES BE REVISED DOWNWARD FROM THOSE APPROVED IN COMMISSION REGULATION (REFTEL B). COMMISSION IS NOT EXPECTED TO RESIST COUNCIL REQUESTS FOR AN AMENDED REGULATION WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE AGREED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN NEXT FEW DAYS. FURTHERMORE, WE UNDERSTAND THAT "LOWER PRIORITY" SENSITIVE PRODUCTS MENTIONED IN PARA 7, REFTTEL B WILL ALSO BE SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS AND THAT THESE WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN NEAR FUTURE, PROBABLY NEXT WEEK. HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXTILES, AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRUSSE08959
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770271-1137
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770711/aaaaaiqu.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9ff2f662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BRUSSELS 8831, 77 BRUSSELS 8154, 77 GENEVA 977
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1727013
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC ACTION ON TEXTILE QUESTIONS
TAGS: ETRD, FR, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9ff2f662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009